

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 and 17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 10-16 are canceled. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

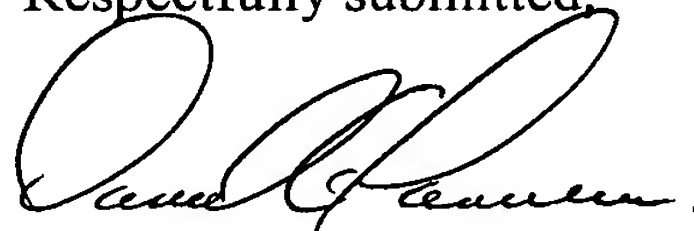
The Office Action asserts that claims 1-9 and 17 are allowed and that this application is in condition for allowance except for a certain formal matter. The Office Action seeks cancellation of non-elected claims 10-16 which were previously withdrawn in response to a February 11, 2003 Restriction Requirement.

Applicant hereby cancels claims 10-16.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 and 17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III

Registration No. 54,734

JAO:DAT/brc

Date: November 26, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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